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County Borough of Ipswich

REPORT

of the

PORT OF IPSWICH HEALTH
AUTHORITY

1949

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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PORT OF IPSWICH HEALTH AUTHORITY. REPORT FOR 1949.

1.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1949:—

TABLE A.

	No.	Ton- age.	No. inspected		No. Reported to be Defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of Ves- No. of Ves-	
			By the Medical Officer	By the Port Health Inspector			sels on which defects were found and reported to the Min. of Transport Surveyors	sels reported as having or having had, during the voyage, In- fectious Di- seases on bd.
FOREIGN								
Steamers ...	58	58,866	1	44	6	4	—	—
*Motor ...	59	13,857	—	41	5	4	—	—
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign	117	72,723	1	85	11	8	—	—
COASTWISE—								
Steamers ...	309	187,584	—	51	8	7	—	—
*Motor ...	648	100,294	—	64	8	6	—	—
Sailing ...	304	20,198	—	53	2	2	—	—
Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise	1,261	308,076	—	168	18	15	—	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1,378	380,799	1	253	29	23	—	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II.—CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT:—

TABLE B.

- (a) *Passenger Traffic during the year*—Nil.
- (b) *Cargo Traffic.* Principal imports: coal, oil, spirits, grain, timber, road stone, phosphates, fertilizers, pyrites, molasses. Principal exports: Flour, feeding stuffs, sugar, scrap iron and steel.
- (c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.* Huelva, Antwerp, Casablanca, Kotka, Sfax Weismar, Montreal, Dakar, Abö, Skelleftea; Aruba, Hankipuda, Sorel, Helsingfors, Gdynia.

III.—WATER SUPPLY:—

- (a) *For the Port.* Water supply is obtained from the Ipswich Corporation's water mains.
- (b) *For Shipping.* Shipping in the Dock and at Cliff Quay obtain water from the Ipswich Corporation's water mains. Shipping at the deep water mooring berth in Buttermen's Bay use a water boat from Harwich.

- (c) *Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.* One water boat is used. It is owned by the Felixstowe Dock Company and is inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector of the Harwich Port Health Authority. The sanitary condition is satisfactory.

IV.—PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945:—

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health:—

A Declaration form is handed to the Master of a vessel from a foreign port either by the Pilot, the Customs Officers or the Port Health Inspector, and when filled in, is returned to the Port Health Authority either by the Customs Officer or the Port Health Inspector.

2. Boarding of vessels on arrival:—

Vessels from foreign ports are boarded by an Officer of the Port Health Authority at Cliff Quay, Ipswich, or at the Ipswich Dock.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.):—

Arrangements have been made with the Customs Officers to notify to the Port Health Authority any inward vessel requiring special attention also for wireless messages received by local shipping agents, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Regulations, to be forwarded to the officers of the Port Health Authority.

4. Mooring stations designated under Article 10: (a) within the docks; (b) outside the docks:—

(a) The established inner mooring station is situated at Cliff Quay, Ipswich.

(b) The established outer mooring station is situated at the anchorage at Buttermans Bay.

5. Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14:—

A standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer in respect of all unhealthy ships, except those unhealthy on account of cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, smallpox or chickenpox.

6. Experience of working of Article 16:—

No difficulty arose during the year in carrying out the restrictions on boarding or leaving a ship arriving from a foreign port.

7. (a) *Premises and waiting rooms for medical examinations.*

Medical examinations are carried out on board the ship concerned.

(b) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.*

On a ship where infectious disease has occurred, disinfection of the infected parts of the ship is carried out by the staff of the Port Health Authority. A cleansing station for persons is established at the office of the Port Health Authority and further facilities for the cleansing of persons exist at the Ipswich Isolation Hospital and at the Ipswich Smallpox Hospital.

(c) *Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purpose of the regulations.*

Temporary accommodation is available at the Ipswich Isolation Hospital for persons requiring such accommodation for the purposes of the Regulations.

(d) *Hospital accommodation available for plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox and other infectious diseases.*

A smallpox hospital (24 beds) is maintained by the Ipswich Group Hospital Management Committee and is available for cases of smallpox in the Port.

(e) *Ambulance transport.*

5 motor ambulances, two sitting-cab cars and two motor vans are available for transport purposes.

(f) *Supervision of contacts.*

Contacts proceeding to places outside the Borough and the Port of Ipswich are notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the district to which they are proceeding. Contacts remaining on the ship are kept under observation daily by an officer of the Port Health Authority.

8. *Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague:*

The examination of rats for plague is carried out at the Public Health laboratory at Ipswich. The number of rats examined for plague during the year 1949 was 35.

9. Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examinations:—

Other bacteriological or pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, at Ipswich.

10. Arrangements for information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under International arrangements, including in-patient treatment; also steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Printed pamphlets are available and given to each ship, requiring information as to locations and times of clinics. Diagnosis and treatment are carried out at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

11. Arrangements for the interment of the dead:—Nil.

12. Other matters, if any, requiring or receiving attention:—Nil.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels:—

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average number of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
—	—	—	—	—

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival:—

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average number of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
—	—	—	—	—

V.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.

(a) *In ships in the Port.*

Ships visited by the Port Health Inspector have enquiry and search made on board for unusual mortality of rats and mice.

(b) *On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.*

Premises in the vicinity of the docks and quays are visited from time to time by the Port Health Inspector and similar enquiries and search are made.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.

Special measures, such as rat guarding mooring ropes, are taken, and no evidence has been found of rat migration from ship to shore during the year.

(3) Methods of deratisation of (a) Ships, (b) Premises, in the vicinity of docks or quays.

(a) The Port of Ipswich is not an "approved" port for the purposes of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. Ships requiring deratisation have therefore to proceed to an "approved" port, the nearest being the ports of Harwich or London in the South, or the ports of Hull and Goole in the North.

(b) Deratisation of business premises in the vicinity of the Dock and quays is carried out by the occupier of the premises concerned, the usual method being the use of traps and poisoned baits. Private premises are treated free by Ipswich Local Authority.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.

The usual inspections are made by the Port Health Inspector. The Local Authority employ full-time rat catchers who are available in case of necessity.

5) Rat-proofing.

(a) *To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat proof?*

Many of the buildings, etc. in the vicinity of the docks and quays are very old and are not considered rat-proof. Recently-erected buildings are designed with rat-proofing in mind and are more satisfactory.

(b) *Action taken to extend rat-proofing.*

(i) In ships; (ii) on shore.

Advice is given by the Port Health Inspector to the person concerned where evidence is found of the necessity of extension of rat-proofing of either ships or buildings.

Since November, 1937, twopence per carcase has been paid for all rats caught privately in the Port and Borough.

The total number of rats caught in the Port and Borough during the year was 1,842.

TABLE G.

Measures of rat destruction on plague "infected" or "suspected" vessel or vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the port during the year:—

No such vessel arrived in the Port of Ipswich during the year.

TABLE II.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

Ipswich is not an "approved" port for this purpose and therefore no certificates were issued.

VI.—HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during the year	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	187	3	2	16
Other Nations...	66	1	—	7

VII.—FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940.

No food was examined during the year 1949.

- (2) Shell-fish. Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the P.H.A., stating whether they are in the opinion of the Medical Officer liable to pollution. Report of any action, taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932:—

The oyster beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Ipswich P.H.A. are not now in use.

- (3) Number of Samples of Food examined by:—

- (a) Bacteriologist.
- (b) Analyst.

No samples of food were examined in the Port of Ipswich during the year.

